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FROM: HABANA

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2379, MARCH 15, 1 PM

SENT DEPARTMENT 2379, PARIS 19, CARACAS 86, MEXICO 99, BRUSSELS 12.

DAVID SALVADOR, SECRETARY GENERAL, AND FRANCISCO SUAREZ, VICE SECRETARY FOR STATISTICS, OF CUBAN LABOR CONFEDERATION (CTC) LEAVE MARCH 17 FOR FRANCE TRAVELING VIA VENEZUELA. PURPOSE TRIP TO PRESENT PAYMENTS OF 10,000 PESOS TO FAMILIES OF FRENCH SAILORS KILLED IN EXPLOSION ON FRENCH SHIP LA COUBRE WHICH OCCURRED WHILE UNLOADING MUNITIONS HABANA FEBRUARY 26. WILL SPEND TWO DAYS VENEZUELA VISITING LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AND HOLDING CONFERENCES TO "EXPLAIN PROGRESS CUBAN REVOLUTION." EXPECTED LENGTH OF STAY IN FRANCE NOT YET KNOWN.

SALVADOR FROM SUGAR WORKERS FEDERATION, FORMER MEMBER COMMUNIST PARTY, EXPELLED 1951. MILITANT REVOLUTIONARY AND ARDENT SPOKESMAN GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-AMERICAN LINE. APPEARS HAVE CASTRO'S CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT TO WHICH HE OWES PRESENT POSITION HEAD OF CTC.

SUAREZ COMES FROM RESTAURANT WORKERS HEAVILY COMMUNIST INFILTRATED FEDERATION. NOT PROMINENT FIGURE.

PAB/22

BRADDOCK

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